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Editorials

More Control Of Government Agencies

There are certain sections of our democracy of which no branch of government has complete control. For instance, look at the C.I.A.

Two years ago, many people were shocked when they found out that the Central Intelligence Agency was giving scholarships to students for study in foreign countries. The implication was that these students, in return for their tuition and books, were spies for the United States government.

The U.S. citizenry was shocked to find out that not even Congress knows where funds earmarked for the C.I.A. are spent. The C. I. A. has been allowed to operate under the assumption that unless all of their plans are shrouded in complete secrecy, the security of the United States will be threatened.

We feel that the reverse is true. We cannot see any harm in letting Senators and Congressmen with security clearance know where these funds are being spent. On the contrary, we are afraid that the very secrecy of this agency is a threat to all of the people of the United States. We supply funds to a police agency which is not responsible to anyone.

The temptation is there for a power hungry individual to use the funds against the forces of democracy. If there is nobody to answer to what is the harm in trying to set up a private dictatorship? Even if the attempt fails, the next year he could tell the Congress that it was none of their business what he was trying to do. Tradition would dictate that Congress would accept this — then give the agency more funds for another year's work.

We will grant that this would be an extreme case. However, we believe that there is a distinct possibility that the C.I.A., as well as other agencies without direct control, could someday work against our government.

We therefore believe that all agencies of the U. S. government should be forced to submit to the Congress a budget with every dollar earmarked for a specific project.

Only then can we be sure that none of our tax dollars are being spent to subvert our own government.